

REMARKS

Claims 1-11 are all the claims pending in the application. Applicant notes with appreciation that the Examiner has indicated that dependent claim 11 contains allowable subject matter. Accordingly, Applicant has added new independent claim 12 which corresponds to claims 1 + 11. Thus, it is submitted that claim 12 is allowable. In addition, Applicant has amended independent claim 1 of the application. For the following reasons, it is believed that independent claim 1 patentably distinguishes over Nadeau, et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,705,623).

Both Nadeau, et al. and the instant application disclose a modular shopping cart which however have different connection systems between the basket and the uprights of the cart base. Moreover, the uprights are removably connectable to the base in Nadeau, et al., while they are integral to the base in the present application.

The uprights are secured to the basket by means of screws in Nadeau, et al., while all the components of the cart, according to the present application, are assembled by mutually engaging to one another these components without use of screws and locking the assembly by the transverse bar connecting the uprights.

A comb-like connection system is provided for the shopping cart of the present invention consisting of substantially parallel elongated projections 9 and 18 extending along the confronting faces of the uprights 6 and respectively, the end sides 16 of the basket. Elongated projections 9 and 18 engage with each other as a result of the mutual coupling movement of the uprights and the basket in direction parallel to the uprights. Stop projections 21 and 22 are formed at the lower end of each end side 18 of the basket and, respectively, at the free ends of

legs 17 extending from end sides 16. Stop projections 21 and 22 engage within pockets 11 and 12 formed at an intermediate point and, respectively, at the base of uprights 6. In this way transverse movement and downward movement of the basket is prevented. Upward movement is prevented by connecting the top ends of the uprights 6 and the top ends of the end sides 16 by the transverse rod 25 together.

None of these features is disclosed in Nadeau, et al. The connection system disclosed therein cannot be defined as a comb connection system, but a simple screw connection. The assembly of the modular shopping cart is easier and simpler by far than that of Nadeau, et al. In the Office Action, the Examiner contends that reference numeral 90 in Figs. 13 and 14 of Nadeau, et al. correspond to the claimed comb-like formations, recited in claim 1 of the application. However, (1) reference numeral 90 is merely described as “an interconnectable surface” and (2) these surfaces are only provided on the uprights - they are not provided on the basket. In contrast, claim 1 recites that the comb like formations are provided on the facing surfaces of both the uprights and the basket.

Furthermore, Nadeau, et al. does not disclose a shopping cart in which the two lateral uprights are integral with the base, as claim 1 requires. Rather, in Nadeau, et al., the uprights are removably connectable to the base.

Based on the foregoing, it is submitted that claim 1 patentably distinguishes over Nadeau, et al. Further, a number of dependent claims contain features not taught or suggested by Nadeau, et al. For example, with respect to claim 2, the Examiner contends that reference numerals 92 and 94 correspond to the claimed tongue and groove elements respectively provided on the

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uprights and the basket. However, elements 92 and 94 in Nadeau, et al. are both located on the uprights. The features recited in claims 3-10 are likewise not taught or suggested by Nadeau, et al.

In view of the foregoing, it is submitted that all claims pending in the application are allowable. It is therefore respectfully submitted that the application be passed to issue at the earliest possible convenience. If any points remain in issue which the Examiner feels may be best resolved through a personal or telephone interview, the Examiner is kindly requested to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

The USPTO is directed and authorized to charge all required fees, except for the Issue Fee and the Publication Fee, to Deposit Account No. 19-4880. Please also credit any overpayments to said Deposit Account.

Respectfully submitted,



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